

# News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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## **Corps of Engineers begins review of proposal to build UC Merced Campus**

Environmental scientists with the Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, have begun reviewing the permit application from the University of California for the construction of the U.C. Merced campus.

“We received the final information needed to process the application February 28, we’ve determined that it is complete, and we’ll now start our evaluation. The university would like a permit decision by January 2004, but we are not sure we will have completed our evaluation by then.” said Art Champ, Chief of the Corps’ Sacramento District Regulatory Branch.

The review process includes the preparation and distribution of an Environmental Impact Statement. The EIS will analyze impacts to wetlands, vernal pools, and other aquatic resources, as well as other environmental and public interest factors. As part of the review, the Corps will hold a public meeting in the spring of 2002 to gather input from interested parties. The Corps will also coordinate its review with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Planners for the U.C. Merced campus first contacted the Corps in late 1999 to discuss federal environmental requirements to construct the campus. Since then, the Corps has met regularly with U.C. Merced staff and their consultants, providing information and guidance on the application process.

The Corps of Engineers administers Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Under this section, a Department of the Army permit is required for discharges of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Information regarding the Corps’ permit process is available on the Sacramento District website at: [www.spk.usace.army.mil](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil).

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